

DIG BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY EXCAVATION 2013

On behalf of Bromsgrove District Council



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Contents

Part 1 Project Summary

Introduction to the project	1
Methods	1
Results	3
Conclusions	6

Part 2 Detailed Report7

1 Background.....7

1.1 Reasons for the project	7
-----------------------------------	---

1.2 Project aims.....	7
-----------------------	---

2 Methods8

2.1 Documentary research, by Rob Hedge	8
--	---

2.2 Fieldwork strategy	9
------------------------------	---

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams	9
--	---

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy	9
--------------------------------------	---

2.3.2 Method of artefactual analysis.....	9
---	---

2.3.3 Discard policy	10
----------------------------	----

2.3.4 Environmental archaeology methodology.....	10
--	----

2.4 Public outreach and engagement.....	10
---	----

3 The site10

3.1 Topography, geology and current land-use.....	10
---	----

3.2 Archaeological context	11
----------------------------------	----

4 Results12

4.1.1 Phase 1: Post-medieval.....	12
-----------------------------------	----

4.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits.....	13
-------------------------------------	----

4.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams	14
--	----

4.2.1 Summary of artefactual evidence by period	16
---	----

5 Project conclusions.....23

6 Significance.....24

6.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site	24
---	----

6.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site	24
--	----

6.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site	24
--	----

7 Publication summary.....24

8 Personnel25

9 Acknowledgements25

10 Bibliography26

Dig Bromsgrove Community Archaeology Excavation 2013, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

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With contributions by Rob Hedge and Dennis Williams

Part 1 Project Summary

This Part 1 summary is intended as a brief and accessible outline of the work undertaken on the *Dig Bromsgrove* project. The more detailed technical report, with extended background context, finds assessment and structural analysis, is to be found below in Part 2 of this document.

Introduction to the project

Between the 9th and 20th of July 2013, the *Dig Bromsgrove* community archaeology project was undertaken on the site of the former Market Hall at the Hanover Street/St John Street car park in Bromsgrove, just to the south-west of the main high street of the town. A single trench (10.30 x 7.5m, covering an area of 77.25m²) accommodated up to twelve volunteers per day working on the excavation, which was co-ordinated by archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology.

Dig Bromsgrove was an aspect of a wider scheme of heritage engagement and community involvement currently being managed by Bromsgrove District Council, as part of the Bromsgrove Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). This is focused upon conservation and enhancement of historic properties in Bromsgrove but also involves archaeological appraisal and assessment of the town.

Methods

Previous work undertaken nearby, during the construction of the Market Hall in 1994, indicated the nature and depth of post-medieval and possible medieval archaeology likely to be encountered on the site. Documentary research during the current project, particularly study of old photographs and maps, suggested the position of a series of tenements and yard spaces in this area, and the excavation trench was targeted on these.

The initial work on the site involved the removal of the car park surface (brick paviers) and modern made-ground across the area using a JCB. Additionally, a mock excavation area for school visits was completed in advance of the volunteers starting in order to ensure that the site was ready and safely accessible for public access and community excavation from day one.

In the course of the project, participants in the community dig were all given the opportunity to first learn and then, under supervision, put into practice varying aspects of field archaeology, including excavation, planning, photography, levelling, finds processing and context recording. The finished field records from the site were intended to be of sufficient quality that a full report could be completed to a professional standard and so used to inform future research.

The THI scheme and the community dig were promoted through site tours for the public and an exhibition space in a former shop was established in Bromsgrove High Street to allow visitors to learn more about the project. Public engagement was also undertaken through both traditional (newspapers, radio), digital (websites), and social media formats (Blogging, Twitter and Flickr).



The car-park site before excavation



The site being opened with the JCB



A site tour taking place while volunteers undertake planning of the site

Results

The archaeology revealed was all of post-medieval or later date, being the foundation remains and back-yards of former tenements that had previously existed along the frontage of St John Street until their demolition and clearance in the 1950s.

Post-medieval

5, St John Street

The earliest deposit encountered was a clayey sand layer, with associated finds suggesting a later 17th century date. Two walls built directly above this were constructed from fairly substantial sandstone blocks and probably supported the back wall of a tenement identified as house no. 5, St John Street. Some of the stones were shaped and others were not, indicating that they are likely to have been reused from elsewhere rather than being originally designed for use in this structure, and at least one was of very high quality. A rubble-rich mixed deposit abutted the walls and contained pottery of mid 18th century origin, suggesting the sandstone foundations had been laid down prior to that date.

The remains of later brick walls and surfaces were built against and above these footings and included a possible small outbuilding in the eastern part of the area with a single, very smooth and worn brick step. The structure appears to have been reached across a quarry tile floor that was located at the back of the property.

A 1.5m wide gap noted between some of the walls is likely to have been an alley passage running through the building from the St John Street frontage to the back of the house. This led to an area of worn stone cobbling that probably represents the remains of a back-yard space.

6, St John Street

A second tenement was evidenced by further sandstone foundations in the western part of the trench that formed a cellar. As with the foundations of house no. 5, the variable block sizes and irregular surface dressing suggested at least some level of re-use in this construction. The floor of the cellar was very uneven and although constructed of sandstone, contained a number of areas of brick patching which may be indicative of a long period of substantial use.



The site after initial cleaning (5 St John Street to rear of site and cellar of no 6 in foreground). North to left



The cobbled back-yard surface



Sandstone wall foundations of the cellar of no 6

Modern

Covering and infilling the post-medieval structural remains were a series of deposits related to 20th century destruction and demolition on the site. Demolition material and everyday rubbish had been used to fill the cellar void of house no. 6 and within this were finds distinctly dateable to the 1940s, including objects associated with the Second World War period. Given that the buildings in this area are known from other evidence to have been demolished in the 1950s, this dating evidence appears to be particularly accurate.

Later 20th century construction was clearly identifiable within the trench area: service trenches and a series of tarmac and later 20th century made-ground layers building up the area by just over a metre in depth. This correlated with the known use of the site as a car park for both an earlier market building built in 1926 and the later one opened in 1994.

The finds

The artefactual assemblage consisted of bone, brick, clay pipes, glass, metal, plastic, pottery, rubber, shell and tile, and included some interesting items. Overall, the assemblage displayed a range of artefacts that were representative of post-medieval occupation and use, but most of the

post-medieval material was residual within contexts associated with the 20th century building demolition carried out at the site.



Glass bottles and post-medieval (18th century) buff ware pottery



Clay pipe bowls (late 17th–18th century) and stems



Post-medieval red ware pottery (mostly 17th century)



Metal figures (?toys). Left: animal head. Right: kneeling child

Conclusions

Only a small area of the car-park was investigated but, even so, it is possible to correlate the findings with known mapping of the area and so demonstrate that the structural evidence is the remains of an alleyway, a small outbuilding, a cellar and a cobbled yard representing the outside space to the rear of houses 5 and 6, St John Street. Earlier building materials had been re-used in the foundations, apparently in the later 17th century (or early 18th century) as indicated for no. 5. It was not clear as to how these properties functioned in the 18th century, but finds from the site cross-referenced well with the census information for the use of these buildings in the 19th and early 20th century.

Although the majority of the finds recovered from the upper levels of the site mainly related to disturbance and destruction caused by mid-20th century demolition, earlier uncontaminated deposits were demonstrated to be present. However, the full sequence of archaeological deposition was not established due to the thickness of deposits being investigated in such a constrained time-scale. The potential for the site and its environs to contain deposits capable of greatly improving the understanding and knowledge of life in Bromsgrove from at least the 17th century onwards is clearly very high.

The project was successful in engaging local people with the history of Bromsgrove and heritage more widely, and purely in numerical terms, the project had a substantial public impact. Over 400 school children visited the site to undertake educational activities; c 450 people visited the exhibition on Bromsgrove High Street; a minimum of c 500 members of the public visited the site itself for conducted tours; and 38 volunteers helped full-time on site (with many more having to be put on a reserve list). The digital social media aspect of engaging with the community was also significant; over 100 people followed the Twitter feed during the project and the online blog received over 3000 pageviews from 1600 visits by almost 900 members of the public.



The site crew on the final day

Part 2 Detailed Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

The *Dig Bromsgrove* community archaeology excavation was one aspect of a wider scheme of heritage engagement and community involvement being managed by Bromsgrove District Council as part of the Bromsgrove Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). This is a £1.6 million Heritage Lottery-funded scheme running from 2012–2017, focused upon conservation and enhancement of historic properties in Bromsgrove, and which also involves archaeological appraisal and assessment of the town (eg Rogers *et al* 2013). The excavation took place within a fenced compound on the site of the former Market Hall at the Hanover Street/St John Street car park in Bromsgrove, just to the south-west of the main high street of the town. A single trench accommodated up to twelve volunteers per day working on the excavation, which was co-ordinated by archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology.

The project was commissioned by David Thomas on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council (the Client) in response to a brief (the Brief) prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (the Curator), dated 15th May 2013. The outline aims for the proposed excavation were set out in a document entitled *Requirements for a Community Excavation and Public Programme* (Bromsgrove District Council Conservation 2013), alongside a brief by the County Council (WCC 2013), in response to all of which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008), and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

1.2 Project aims

In broad terms, the aim of the project was to have archaeological activity taking place in the town centre and to use heritage as a way of creating interest in and promoting the town of Bromsgrove, both locally and regionally, as part of the overall Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme. This activity was to be prominent and publicly accessible so that the site could be visited by as many people as possible as progress was made.

More specifically, the project identified a series of outcomes to be achieved, including the following:

- a) that the excavation should be run as a training dig for public volunteers who would be recruited from the local area, with a variety of tasks and training sessions available;
- b) that the site be open to the public six days a week from 10am till 4pm;
- c) that the numbers of visitors to the project be monitored, and comments and views on the excavation collected;
- d) that an intensive programme of school visits should be undertaken aimed at linking with identified, relevant areas of the primary and secondary school curriculum;
- e) that a mock sand pit excavation area be provided for school children to learn about excavation processes;
- f) that an exhibition space be created in which information from and about the site could be collated;
- g) that re-enactors, in relevant costume, should be present on the site for two sessions;
- h) that Worcestershire Archaeology specialists be present to conduct sessions in finds identification (one day per week);
- i) that formal and informal tours be on offer for visitors to the site;

- j) that up-to-date information about the results of the excavation be provided in order to inform ongoing publicity and news initiatives;
- k) that the project should be co-ordinated alongside a series of historic Bromsgrove town walks, and;
- l) that further links be developed, wherever possible, during the course of the project.

2 Methods

2.1 Documentary research, by Rob Hedge

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, and also during the excavation itself, documentary research was carried out in relation to the site area and the immediate vicinity in order to inform the siting of the excavation area and aid the interpretation of any structural remains likely to be encountered.

Geo-referencing and rectification of large-scale historic mapping (digitised from originals held by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service) was undertaken in order to perform a 'map regression'. Maps selected for comparison included:

1839 tithe map;

1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 'County' map;

1903 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan.

The rectified historic maps were overlaid onto modern OS VectorMap mapping, and in turn overlaid with a surveyed site outline using ArcGIS 10.1. Further mapping consulted but not selected for inclusion within the map regression included an 1846 town plan (WRO BA338: 161/140), and early twentieth century land use (ref: 10059/51) and Surveyors' Office (ref: 6461/13) plans.

Correspondence with local historians and residents facilitated access to collections of historic photographs including the Brotherton Collection, collated by the late R.B. Brotherton and currently curated by Bob Richardson. High-resolution digital copies of selected images were produced by Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service's digitisation team. In addition, historic photographs of the area held in the collections of the Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service were studied. Of these, several were particularly pertinent to the project, as they depicted the properties fronting St John Street during demolition in 1951 (Worcestershire Photographic Survey Register refs. 2383 & 2384). Comparison with the historic mapping revealed that the properties in the photographs fell within the area available for excavation.

A summary of the census records for the eastern segment of St John Street between 1841 and 1901 was prepared by Jenny Townshend. Cross-referencing the data from these records with the historic maps and photographs enabled the identification of the property numbers assigned to each building in the early 20th century. As a result, it was ascertained that house numbers 4, 5, 6, and 7 (numbered from east to west) were the properties likely to be revealed during excavation, and that the photograph showing demolition of houses in the area included house numbers 4 and 5.

Additionally, analysis of the structural fabric visible within the historic photographs was undertaken by Shona Robson-Glyde. This suggested that whilst the rear elevation of the property identified as no. 4 and no. 5 St John Street dated from the early 18th century, the internal structural fabric appeared to be earlier; the roof timbers and chimney breast were tentatively ascribed to the 17th century.

Further documentary sources consulted included trade directories published by Pigot & Co (1835 and 1841) and Kelly's Directories Ltd (1901), along with various papers held in the County Archives pertaining to deeds, fire insurance particulars, abstracts of title and sale particulars (catalogue references 5439/2-10, 9526/34-81, 10502/4 and BA5439: 3,4,7,8,10). Whilst rebuilding

and re-numbering of properties, together with the absence of property numbers within trade directories, precluded the identification of the specific locations, it was possible to draw some conclusions as to the general character of the street.

Fronting the west side of the street, to the south-west of the church and to the west of the site area, there appears to have been a concentration of large, spacious properties occupied by professional persons (including several attorneys), clergy and 'gentry'. By contrast, the properties along the south-east edge of St John Street, within the area bounded by the Spadesbourne Brook, tended to be small tenements occupied by retailers (including butchers, grocers and clothiers), tradespeople, boarding houses and light industry (including nailmakers, bootmakers and carpenters' workshops). The site itself falls within the latter area, with the census records indicating:

no's 4 and 5 St John Street in use as a lodging house during the late 19th century;

no 6 changing from carpenter's workshop in the mid-19th century to carriage works, watchmaker's workshop and finally tobacconist by 1901;

no 7 as being residential throughout the same period, occupied by a succession of tenants including an agricultural labourer, a china dealer, a groom, a butcher and an ironworker.

The overall picture is one of a crowded and bustling mix of commercial and residential activity, appropriate to an area just off the main street of the town.

2.2 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between the 9th and 20th of July 2013 (Worcestershire HER ref. WSM 49636). As a result of the documentary research, a single trench was targeted on the area of tenements and yard spaces that had been identified from old photographs and historic maps. The trench was 10.30m long and 7.50m wide, covering an area of 77.25m² (see Fig 2). The initial work on the site involved the removal of deposits considered not to be significant, using a JCB 3CX excavator employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Further site set up, including the construction of a mock excavation area for school visits, was completed in advance of the volunteers starting in order to ensure that the site was ready and safely accessible from day one for public access and community excavation.

Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand, with the site accommodating up to twelve volunteers per day under the supervision of archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology. The site was cleaned using hand tools and then surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and to further understand structural relationships, as well as to determine their nature. This was all completed by the volunteers who received training in archaeological field techniques and recording methods. The finished field records from the site were intended to be of a professional standard and so used to inform future research. As such, deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and the trench plan was located using a differential GPS with an accuracy setting of <0.04m.

On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material, with the main structural elements covered with terram sheeting and fine sand for protection.

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Dennis Williams

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

2.3.2 Method of artefactual analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date range was produced for each stratified context. These date ranges were used for determining the broad phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

2.3.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.3.4 Environmental archaeology methodology

Due to the nature of the site, no deposits were excavated that were deemed suitable for the recovery of environmental evidence.

2.4 Public outreach and engagement

To promote the Bromsgrove THI scheme and the community excavation more widely, twice-daily site tours for the public were conducted by the on-site archaeologists and an exhibition space in a former shop was established in Bromsgrove High Street. This allowed visitors to learn more about the history of the site and see finds recovered from the dig itself, and finds identification days were also conducted here, allowing the public to bring in artefacts to be assessed by a specialist. School groups booked visits and participated in exercises in excavation techniques in a small sand pit created next to the main excavation, as well as in impromptu classes on finds and environmental evidence in the exhibition space. Town walks covering the historic core of Bromsgrove were also undertaken on two separate days during the project, and on the final two days an historical re-enactor was present to portray the social scene of one of the main periods that were being excavated.

Public engagement was also pursued through a proactive media strategy covering traditional and digital formats, with print and radio media invited onto the site and studio interviews also being recorded (both in magazine feature format and as news items). In addition, an online blog page was created which was maintained and updated throughout the project by a member of the site staff, together with a Twitter feed and Flickr page that were both updated at the end of each day, as well as 'live' from the site itself. The online resources were aimed at the general public, with news of the project and the methodologies used presented in a more accessible way.

3 The site

3.1 Topography, geology and current land-use

The excavation took place within a fenced compound now used for equipment storage by Bromsgrove District Council on the site of the demolished Market Hall (Plate 1). This is at the north-east end of the Hanover Street/St John Street public car park, located between St John's Church and the Spadesbourne Brook, just to the south-west of the main high street of the town (NGR SO 9579706). The area of the trench was defined not only by the space available to use within the existing compound, but also the presence of live services in the vicinity and the proximity of a concrete culvert channelling the Spadesbourne Brook from which a minimum stand-off zone of 1m was maintained when positioning the trench.

The site was on a slightly raised plateau of land relative to some of the surrounding roads, created as a result of modern landscaping (at around 85m AOD). Geologically, the area has underlying

deposits of sandstone from the Bromsgrove Formation dated to the Triassic period. These are overlain by sands and gravels of the Holt Heath Member to the north-west of the site and, in the immediate environs of the brook, Flandrian alluvial deposits (BGS 2013). The soils in Bromsgrove are not mapped (it is an urban area), but Bromsgrove lies in a known area of brown earths of the Crediton association to the north and Bromsgrove association to the south (Rogers *et al* 2013; Ragg *et al* 1984).

3.2 Archaeological context

Overall, there has been limited archaeological investigation in Bromsgrove until recent years when more work has been undertaken, particularly in relation to the mapped landscape and upstanding buildings. This has included an in-depth survey of the historic environment of Bromsgrove Town Centre as part of the wider THI scheme, which considered the historic buildings within the town and the character and land use of different areas (Rogers *et al* 2013; WSM 47446). The survey built upon a previous project on Bromsgrove as part of the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, which restricted focus upon the pre-1800 development of the town (Buteux 1996; WSM 19704). These works identified that the current settlement of Bromsgrove has mainly developed as a market town around a medieval and post-medieval core, focused upon the former Roman road (WSM 30529; evidenced by the line of the high street in the town) which once linked Droitwich and Wall (Staffs). The market, first recorded in 1200, was located at the south-west end of the high street, at the junction with St John Street, and the town was a prosperous centre for the woollen trade in the medieval period (Dyer 2000, 12-19; Bienstman 2006, 173). From the 16th century until the early 20th century, Bromsgrove became a major centre for nail making in the county of Worcestershire, with up to 3000 nailers working here at the peak of activity (Kings and Cooper 1989; Bienstman 2006).

The site of the community excavation itself is positioned close to the medieval market area within what is probably the earliest part of historic settlement in Bromsgrove, as it is just outside the nearby church precinct which is thought to be the location of a Saxon Minster (WSM 19680) and thus a possible area for the location of the 'primary town' (Dyer 2000, 10-11). Being situated between both St John the Baptist church and the Roman road, as well in close proximity to the route of the Spadesbourne Brook (WSM 45901), ensures that the site has a high archaeological potential. Based on antiquarian evidence, it is also thought that the area east of the existing church may have been the site of a medieval nunnery after a building was revealed nearby in the 18th century during refurbishment of the Crown Inn (WSM 19678; Cook 1994, 1-2; Buteux 1996, 5).

There has been no archaeological evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity in the immediate surrounds of the site, other than the recorded presence of the Roman road nearby. Similarly, evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the locale is restricted to a reference of 'made up ground' being observed during construction of the National School, north-west of the site (Rogers *et al* 2013). Potential medieval features were revealed about 40m south-west of the site during excavation of a manhole in 1994 alongside the construction of the Market Hall (WSM 31097). Part of a mortared sandstone wall was observed and fragments of 13-14th century cooking pot were associated. This work preceded a larger archaeological watching brief undertaken on the Market Hall site when it was built, which monitored the excavation of pile caps and service trenches (WSM 20645; Cook 1994). Here structural remains were encountered that indicated the survival of foundations of post-medieval tenements, some of which appeared to be formed of re-used sandstone blocks from an earlier building. Deposits from the 16th century were recorded and a layer of burnt material dating to the late 17th or early 18th century was found, suggesting destruction as a result of fire in this area in the 1700's.

In 1960, just to the north-east of the site behind buildings in between the High Street and St John Street, a small excavation took place that also recorded further post-medieval structures and deposits (WSM 19661). These layers were dated to the mid-17th century and the late 17th or early 18th century. Further post-medieval deposits of 16th to 18th century date were found immediately south-east of the site, directly across the Spadesbourne Brook, during evaluation trenching

undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology in 2002 (WSM 31883; Rudge 2002). These appeared to indicate the presence of garden or cultivation soils associated with the clearance of tenement plots.

4 Results

The trench and features recorded are shown in Figures 2–5 and Plates 2–7. The archaeology revealed was all of post-medieval or later date and comprised the foundation remains and back-yards of former tenements that had previously existed along the frontage of St John Street until their demolition and clearance in the 1950s. Due to the community training nature of the project, time constraints prevented the full sequence being established. As a result, the presence or absence of medieval and/or earlier period phases was not determined.

4.1.1 Phase 1: Post-medieval

The earliest deposit encountered comprised a clayey sand layer (42) that pre-dated a series of sandstone wall foundations. This was reached at a level of 83.79m AOD, 1.68m below the car park surface. Excavation did not continue beyond this level due to time constraints, and the layer was only found in a small sondage in the north-east part of the excavation area, but a limited number of finds recovered from the deposit appeared to date to the mid to late 17th century. The walls built above this were comprised of fairly substantial sandstone blocks and probably supported the back walls of a series of tenements; therefore, they will be detailed here in sections related to the house numbers that they are likely to represent.

House no. 5, St John Street

Two foundation walls, (26) and (28), which directly related to layer (42), were both three courses high and constructed of irregular grey hand-worked sandstone blocks up to 770mm in length, 300mm in width and 125mm in depth (see Plate 5). Some of the stones were shaped and others were not, indicating that they are likely to have been reused from elsewhere rather than being originally designed for use in this structure, and at least one was of very high quality. A rubble-rich mixed deposit (39) 0.60m in depth, containing a ceramic drain pipe but otherwise undisturbed by later activity, abutted the walls and contained pottery of up to mid 18th century origin. With the pottery of 17th century date found in layer (42) beneath the walls, this suggests that the sandstone foundations were put in around the late 17th to early 18th century.

The remains of later brick walls and surfaces were built against (and above) these footings and included a possible small outbuilding in the eastern part of the area (Plate 3). This is clearly visible as half of a square extended area on the 1st edition ordnance survey map, positioned at the back of the building identified as house no. 5. It was defined by a regular course stretcher-bond wall (29) that abutted an earlier sandstone wall (30), as well as containing a single, very smooth and worn brick step (31). The bricks used in this structure were dated to the 18th century, which compares well with the suggested dating for the sandstone foundations. It also supports an assessment of the historic photographs of house no. 5, which show a building frontage that appears to be early 18th century in date (S. Robson-Glyde, pers. comm.). The outbuilding was 1.70m wide by 3m long and appears to have been reached across a regular square quarry tile floor (27) that was located at the back of the property and found at 84.48m AOD, a similar level as many of the building remains in the rest of the trench (Plate 4). Rubble deposit (36) had infilled the outbuilding and then a series of mortar patches used to cover up this part of site. It is possible that these compacted mortar areas represented floor layers or perhaps the levelling/bedding layers for a series of later brick or tile surfaces that had been removed on disuse. Finds from these layers were attributable to the first half of the 20th century, indicating that these were either much later additions to the building or that they had been deposited during the demolition of the properties.

A further sandstone wall (37) closer to the centre of the trench and on the same alignment as wall (26) appeared to be the continuation of the foundations for house no. 5. This was adjoined with wall (38) which probably formed, along with walls (28), (30) and (29) which defined the outbuilding,

the other side of the square extended area at the back of the building visible on the mapping. A 1.5m wide gap between walls (38) and (29) is likely to have been an alley passage running through the building from the St John Street frontage to the back of the house. This is noticeable as a void on the photograph showing demolition of the properties during the 1950s. Walls (37) and (38) defined an area of worn stone cobbling (25) that appears to be the remains of a cobbled space in this back-yard area (Plate 6). The cobbles abutted the wall of the adjacent property to the west, house no. 6.

House no. 6, St John Street

Additional sandstone foundations - (32) and (33) - were revealed at the west end of the trench and these formed what appeared to be a cellar space 3.29m in length and at least 1.5m wide (Plate 7). As with the foundations of house no. 5, the variable block sizes and irregular surface dressing suggested at least some level of re-use in this construction. They had probably come from a substantial building as again, a number of the stones were of a considerable size, being up to 550mm in length, 180mm in width and 550mm in depth. The floor of this cellar, (35), was very uneven and although constructed of sandstone, contained a number of areas of brick patching which may be indicative of a long period of substantial use. It was also stained black by a dark deposit, potentially representing residue from the storage of coal and was reached 1.75m below the car park surface at a level of 83.84m AOD. The north-west corner of the site contained a partially visible sandstone and brick structure (40) with a repair (41) that appears to be a part of the steps that had once led down into this cellar space. A later brick addition (34) to the south of the cellar was also recorded and this probably demonstrates a dividing wall or perhaps an expansion of the building to create more working space. A brick sample from this wall was dated as 17th century and this supports the evidence on historic photographs, which shows house no. 6 to have a later 17th century frontage (S. Robson-Glyde, pers. comm.). The position of the cellar as revealed in this trench ties in with the mapped evidence from the 1st edition ordnance survey onwards, which shows a long extended building at the rear of house no. 6.

4.1.2 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Demolition horizon

Covering and infilling the post-medieval structural remains described above were a series of deposits related to 20th century destruction and demolition on the site, including some that appeared to indicate areas of burning in and around the buildings. A black, charcoal-rich silt deposit (20) covered over the cobbled yard surface and this included a patch of melted linoleum and finds of mid-20th century origin, specifically pottery with a stamp dated to 1936–47. A small area of burnt material (18), only 0.03m in thickness, was also seen above the mortar covering the outbuilding (24), which contained 20th century finds. Demolition material and everyday rubbish had been used to fill the cellar void with a deposit 0.86m in depth (19), and within this were finds distinctly dateable to the 1940s, including objects associated with the Second World War period. Given that the buildings in this area are known to have been demolished in the 1950s, this dating evidence appears to be particularly accurate.

The Market Hall car parks

The stratigraphy of later 20th century construction was clearly identifiable within the trench area, being demonstrated by service trenches and a series of tarmac and later 20th century made-ground layers building up the ground here by just over a metre. This correlated with the known use of the site as a car park for both an earlier market building built in 1926 and the later one opened in 1994. Within this sequence was a small 1.54m² brick structure built of insulation bricks (11) found directly below the modern surface. It appears to have been a box constructed for an ornamental tree decorating the car park and contained material of 1990s origin within two distinct fills.

4.2 Artefactual analysis, by Dennis Williams

The artefactual assemblage comprised over 2000 finds, and consisted of bone, brick, clay pipes, glass, metal, plastic, pottery, rubber, shell and tile, as shown in Table 1. The majority of the assemblage was from 13 stratified contexts. The physical condition of the pottery was used as a guide to the general state of the material, and its low levels of abrasion and mean sherd weight of slightly above average (ie >10g) showed that this was generally good.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
modern	ceramic	-	bead	1	1
modern	ceramic	-	drain pipe	9	740
modern	ceramic	-	electrical connector	3	52
modern	ceramic	-	electrical insulator	5	126
modern	ceramic	-	pot	95	996
modern	ceramic	-	roof tile(flat)	19	2804
modern	glass	-	marble	1	6
modern	glass	-	vessel	276	5616
modern	glass	-	window	254	1234
modern	metal	Al alloy	-	1	60
modern	metal	brass	--	1	1274
modern	metal	Cu/Ni	-	1	6
modern	metal	iron	bicycle saddle	1	928
modern	mineral	coal	-	6	356
modern	organic/ mineral	linoleum	-	12	24
modern	plastic	-	-	13	39
modern	plastic	-	button	1	1
modern	plastic	-	pen	1	8
modern	rubber	-	stopper	2	38
post-medieval	ceramic	-	brick	20	13220
post-medieval	ceramic	-	brick/tile	1	30
post-medieval	ceramic	-	clay pipe	261	534
post-medieval	ceramic	-	marble	1	4
post-medieval	ceramic	-	pot	343	2651
post-medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile	1	102
post-medieval	ceramic	-	roof tile(flat)	88	9380
post-medieval	glass	-	vessel	7	284

post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	floor tile	6	772
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	pot	331	1585
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	roof tile	1	92
post-medieval/ modern	ceramic	-	roof tile(flat)	15	522
post-medieval/ modern	glass	-	bead	2	2
post-medieval/ modern	glass	-	vessel	83	1260
post-medieval/ modern	metal	brass	-	8	366
post-medieval/ modern	metal	iron	-	59	4668
post-medieval/ modern	metal	Pb alloy	ornament	2	68
post-medieval/ modern	organic	-	shoe	2	48
post-medieval/ modern	organic	leather	offcut	1	1
post-medieval/ modern	organic	leather	shoe	3	84
post-medieval/ modern	shell	-	button	1	1
undated	bone	animal bone	-	70	678
undated	shell	cockle	-	1	1
undated	shell	oyster	-	11	35
totals:				2020	50697

Table 1: Quantification of the site assemblage

The pottery comprised post-medieval and modern sherds, as summarised in Table 2.

period	fabric code	Fabric common name	count	weight (g)
post-medieval	77	Midlands yellow ware	4	21
post-medieval	78	Post-medieval red wares	272	2150
post-medieval	81.4	Miscellaneous late stoneware	64	812
post-medieval	81.5	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	10
post-medieval	84	Creamware	14	72
post-medieval	91	Post-medieval buff wares	48	394
post-medieval/ modern	83	Porcelain	2	5
post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	5	14
post-medieval/ modern	85	Modern china	348	1608

post-medieval/ modern	101	Miscellaneous modern wares	11	146
totals:			769	5232

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric/ware type

4.2.1 Summary of artefactual evidence by period

The context finds summary, with *terminus post quem* date ranges, is shown in Table 3 below.

Pottery

A range of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered. Much of the post-medieval pottery was residual in 20th century contexts: late 18th century creamware (fabric 84), late 18th–early 19th century pearlware (fabric 100), 17th century Midlands yellow ware (fabric 77), 17th–18th century glazed red wares (fabric 78) and buff wares with slip-trailed decoration (fabric 91).

One of the earliest deposits encountered was the made-ground abutting walls 26 and 28 (context 39) which was associated with 17th–18th date material, the latest pottery being of mid 18th century date.

For the later material some quite precise dating was made possible by ceramic marks as follows:

- a) a stamp used by R H & S L Plant of Longton, from 1936 to 1947 (context 20; Birks 2013).
- b) a stamp used by Thomas Forester and Sons of Longton from 1942 to 1947 (saucer from building infill 24; Birks 2013).

There was little evidence of porcelain or fine china on the site, with only two small body sherds of thin-walled porcelain (fabric 83), whereas miscellaneous late stonewares (fabric 81.4) were much more common (used for jam jars and teapots). Earthenware flowerpots (fabric 101) were equally common. Such an assemblage, lacking any more prestigious pottery types, would seem typical of an ordinary working family of the time.

One unusual item was a fragment of biscuit-fired moulding (context 19), interpreted as pottery production waste originating from outside Bromsgrove, and most likely Worcester Porcelain waste known to have been widely sold off as hardcore.

Other finds

Bone

Fragments of animal bone (cattle, chicken, pig and sheep) were recovered from various contexts, but were not examined in detail, except to note that some bore butchery marks.

Brick

Sample bricks were recovered from contexts as follows, and assigned approximate dates, based on dimensions: demolition deposit 17 (17th century), infills 21 (17th century), 24 (17th–18th century) and 29 (18th century), and cellar structure 34 (17th century).

Ceramic insulators

Porcelain insulators, from lamp fittings and radio aerials, were present (contexts 9, 19 and 20).

Clay pipe

Clay pipe stems and bowls were found throughout, some of the latter being datable as follows by reference to Oswald (1975): 1640–1680 (deposits 17 and 20), 1690–1710 (39).

Glass

Early 20th century glass domestic bottles and jars were common, and the window glass also appeared to be modern.

Leather

Soles of boots or shoes, and leather offcuts were present (deposit 19) – survival of such material might suggest that the site was benefitting from better than usual preservation perhaps due to the close proximity of the stream to the south and the depth of burial due to extensive overburden.

Metal

Large quantities of corroded iron were recovered from the demolition contexts. Where identifiable, this material was late post-medieval or modern in date - including nails and building fittings. Notable brass items included a gear from a clock, an engraved draughtsman's ruler (bearing the name 'J Henfrey') and a fire hydrant sign (deposit 19). Decorative castings of a wolf's head (context 9), and a kneeling girl (context 20), were lead alloy and possibly of post-medieval date.

Plastic

Modern plastic refuse included a food wrapper dated 1994, combs, a pen and a toothbrush.

Rubber

'Vulcanite' rubber screw stoppers from 20th century bottles bore the marks 'Ansells Brewery Ltd Birmingham' and 'Bromsgrove Mineral Water Co'.

Shell

Oyster shells and cockle shell were noted, and there was also a round button, fashioned from an iridescent (?oyster) shell (fill 24).

Tile

Handmade flat roof tile, dating from the 18th century or earlier, was associated with demolition deposits (17, 18 and 19). Machine made tile, some bearing the maker's stamp 'Rosemary', was also present (layer 9 and deposit 19). This material was generally sampled.

context	material class	object specific type	fabric code	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	tpq date range
9	glass	window	-	84	338	1900	1950	1989
	glass	vessel	-	76	534	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	46	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	18	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	74	672	1850	1950	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	26	3232	1600	1850	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	6	1512	1900	1950	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	180	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	20	38	1600	1900	
	ceramic	electrical insulator	-	1	8	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	134	382	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	83	1	1	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	14	102	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	2	38	1850	1950	

	ceramic	pot	81.4	8	94	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	26	1850	1950	
	rubber	stopper	-	1	20	1900	1950	
	bone	-	-	9	54	-	-	
	bone	-	-	1	20	-	-	
	ceramic	drain pipe	-	2	76	1900	1950	
	ceramic	drain pipe	-	3	124	1900	1950	
	plastic	-	-	5	18	1950	2000	
	organic	-	-	1	1	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	78	7	24	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	3	120	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	84	12	52	1760	1790	
	ceramic	pot	91	4	22	1700	1800	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	2	8	1600	1900	
	ceramic	marble	-	1	4	1800	1900	
	metal	-	-	1	190	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	6	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	1	1850	1950	
	metal	coin	-	1	6	1989	1989	
	metal	-	-	1	28	1600	1950	
10	ceramic	floor tile	-	1	76	1850	1950	1950– 2000
	ceramic	roof tile	-	1	92	1850	1950	
	ceramic	floor tile	-	2	76	1850	1950	
	plastic	-	-	5	16	1950	2000	
	glass	marble	-	1	6	1950	2000	
12	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	3	528	1600	1850	1994– 1995
	ceramic	floor tile	-	2	40	1850	1950	
	ceramic	brick/tile	-	1	30	1600	1900	
	plastic	-	-	1	1	1994	1995	
17	glass	window	-	3	6	1900	1950	1850– 1950
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	9	514	1600	1800	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	1	128	1600	1800	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	378	1600	1700	
	glass	vessel	-	4	66	1700	1850	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	32	70	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	50	116	1600	1900	
	bone	-	-	19	94	-	-	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	6	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	4	6	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	2	2	1850	1950	
	bone	-	-	7	76	-	-	
	ceramic	pot	91	20	128	1700	1800	

	ceramic	pot	78	1	106	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	62	634	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	77	1	3	1600	1700	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	3	12	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	3	8	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	8	1640	1680	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	8	1640	1680	
18	glass	window	-	57	110	1900	1950	1900– 1950
	glass	vessel	-	3	12	1900	1950	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	22	1718	1600	1800	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	9	400	1850	1950	
	ceramic	brick	-	9	358	1600	1900	
	ceramic	pot	85	2	8	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	1	1850	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	38	1900	1950	
	bone	-	-	1	12	-	-	
19	glass	window	-	66	574	1900	1950	1939– 1945
	glass	vessel	-	97	2204	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	2	168	1700	1800	
	glass	vessel	-	2	122	1850	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	2	32	1850	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	248	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	170	1920	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	286	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	3	174	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	298	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	102	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	130	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	46	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	74	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	124	1939	1945	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	13	1292	1900	1950	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	2	218	1600	1800	
	ceramic	roof tile	-	1	102	1600	1800	
	ceramic	brick	-	2	42	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	6	14	1600	1900	
ceramic	electrical insulator	-	1	52	1900	1950		
bone	-	-	1	42	0	0		
bone	-	-	1	6	0	0		
ceramic	pot	81.4	3	88	1900	1950		

	ceramic	pot	85	3	16	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	11	436	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	12	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	4	1850	1950	
	ceramic	electrical insulator	-	2	38	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	3	16	1900	1950	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	6	8	1600	1900	
	ceramic	drain pipe	-	3	392	1900	1950	
	ceramic	drain pipe	-	1	148	1900	1950	
	bone	-	-	7	26	-	-	
	bone	-	-	2	24	-	-	
	mineral	-	-	6	356	-	-	
	organic	shoe	-	1	32	1850	1950	
	organic	shoe	-	2	52	1850	1950	
	organic	shoe	-	2	48	1850	1950	
	shell	-	-	1	14	-	-	
	plastic	pen	-	1	8	1950	2000	
	ceramic	pot	78	1	42	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	1	6	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	84	1	10	1760	1790	
	ceramic	pot	85	44	450	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	16	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	4	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	4	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	632	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	10	232	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	4	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	60	1950	2000	
	metal	-	-	1	182	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	2	86	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	130	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	1	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	1274	1900	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	928	1930	1950	
20	glass	window	-	4	84	1900	1950	1939– 1945
	glass	vessel	-	5	434	1840	1870	
	glass	vessel	-	47	510	1800	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	34	1900	1950	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	100	126	1600	1900	
	ceramic	electrical connector	-	2	42	1900	1950	
	ceramic	electrical connector	-	1	10	1900	1950	

	ceramic	electrical insulator	-	1	28	1900	1950	
	bone	-	-	16	228	-	-	
	shell	-	-	9	20	-	-	
	ceramic	pot	85	89	279	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	16	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	2	4	1936	1947	
	ceramic	pot	100	1	4	1780	1830	
	ceramic	pot	91	10	38	1700	1800	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	17	50	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	4	1850	1950	
	shell	-	-	1	1	-	-	
	ceramic	pot	100	4	10	1780	1830	
	ceramic	pot	83	1	4	1800	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	2	4	1850	1950	
	shell	-	-	1	1	-	-	
	organic/mineral	-	-	12	24	1600	1900	
	ceramic	bead	-	1	1	1900	1950	
	glass	bead	-	2	2	1850	1850	
	plastic	button	-	1	1	1950	2000	
	ceramic	pot	78	142	142	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	84	1	10	1760	1790	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	3	9	1850	1950	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	12	24	1600	1900	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	3	20	1640	1680	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	4	1690	1800	
	metal	-	-	20	1700	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	38	1850	1950	
	metal	-	-	1	40	1600	1950	
	plastic	disc	-	1	2	1939	1945	
21	glass	window	-	18	48	1900	1950	1900–1950
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	19	1994	1600	1850	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	472	1600	1700	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	4	10	1600	1900	
	ceramic	pot	78	2	18	1700	1800	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	2	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	78	2	9	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	30	1850	1950	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	2	6	1600	1900	
	metal	-	-	5	28	1850	1950	
23	rubber	stopper	-	1	18	1900	1950	1900–1950
	metal	-	-	1	4	1850	1950	
24	glass	window	-	22	74	1900	1950	1942–47

	glass	vessel	-	34	326	1900	1950	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	6	1048	1600	1850	
	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	-	6	122	1850	1950	
	ceramic	floor tile	-	1	580	1800	1950	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	830	1700	1800	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	1064	1600	1700	
	ceramic	brick	-	1	208	1700	1800	
	glass	vessel	-	2	208	1900	1950	
	glass	vessel	-	1	34	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	101	1	38	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	64	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	1	1	1850	1950	
	plastic			1	2	1950	2000	
	shell	button		1	1	1850	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	58	310	1900	1950	
	ceramic	pot	85	3	24	1942	1947	
	metal	-	-	20	1800	1850	1950	
29	ceramic	brick	-	1	3440	1700	1800	1700–1800
34	ceramic	brick	-	1	3364	1600	1700	1600–1700
	ceramic	brick	-	1	2884	1600	1700	
39	glass	vessel	-	1	50	1700	1750	1700–1800
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	12	40	1600	1900	
	ceramic	pot	78	4	40	1700	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	14	366	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	3	16	1700	1900	
	ceramic	pot	81.5	1	10	1720	1770	
	ceramic	pot	81.4	1	4	1700	1900	
	ceramic	pot	91	2	30	1700	1800	
	ceramic	pot	91	1	10	1700	1800	
	bone	-	-	5	60	-	-	
	ceramic	pot	78	27	558	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	1	16	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	3	30	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	78	2	39	1600	1800	
	ceramic	pot	91	11	166	1700	1800	
	ceramic	pot	77	3	18	1600	1700	
	ceramic	clay pipe	-	2	4	1600	1900	
ceramic	clay pipe	-	1	10	1690	1710		
42	bone	-	-	1	36	-	-	1600–1700
	ceramic	pot	77	1	10			

Table 3: Summary of finds dating based on contexts

Though the 19th–20th centuries tended to dominate the finds assemblage (the high volume of finds was exceptional for such a short period of excavation), substantial deposits of 17th–18th date were also identified. The assemblage was particularly notable for providing examples of finds associated with the Second World War, and potentially being of higher than usual quality in terms of artefact condition.

5 Project conclusions

The archaeological remains revealed during the *Dig Bromsgrove* community project were all of post-medieval and later date, with the earliest deposits encountered probably being 17th century in origin. Only a small area of the car-park was investigated but it is possible to correlate the findings with known mapping of the area and to suggest that similar structural remains will continue beyond the excavation area.

Comparison of historic mapping, census records and photographs of the site before the 1950s clearance suggest that the archaeological remains of properties revealed in the trench were the back walls and outside space relating to houses 5 and 6, St John Street. This structural evidence was represented as house foundations, the remains of an alleyway, a small outbuilding, a cellar and a cobbled yard that were probably initially constructed from the late 17th to early 18th century. The wall foundations demonstrated evidence of re-use of building materials from one or more earlier substantial structures and some of this building material was of high quality. It was not clear as to how these properties functioned at their outset, but the black appearance of some of the deposits suggested that industrial (rather than just domestic) activity was a cause of deposit accumulation around the buildings. Interestingly, some of the finds from the site compare well with the census information indicating the later use of the buildings in the 19th and early 20th century. A watchmaker had lived at no. 6 during the later 19th century; and rather appropriately, a small cog was discovered in the cellar.

The archaeology was sealed by a deep accumulation of modern made-ground but it was clear that extensive and substantial structural remains, as well as associated deposits and working spaces, have survived in this area beneath the modern activity. This supports the previous findings from the limited archaeological work conducted on the Market Hall site during its construction (Cook 1994). The excavation also produced archaeology of a similar period to that found north-east and south-east of the site during the 1960s and in 2002, building upon this earlier work to further detail the development of the urban environment in post-medieval Bromsgrove. Although the majority of the finds recovered mainly related to disturbance and destruction caused by mid-20th century demolition, earlier undisturbed deposits did exist. When combined with the structural evidence, the potential for the rest of the site and its surroundings to improve understanding and knowledge of life in Bromsgrove from at least the 17th century onwards is very high.

Although deposits pre-dating the post-medieval activity were not revealed in the course of the excavation, there was no indication that earlier feature or layers would not have survived. There remains the possibility that medieval and earlier archaeology exists in this area and some suggestion of this is created by the presence of large pieces of high quality building material re-used in the structures described above. The absence of medieval finds, despite the proximity of the site to the High Street and the medieval market area, was also noteworthy. This may imply that any earlier deposits on the site have been covered over and that post-medieval deposits were continually 'built-up' above, rather than clearance/disturbance occurring after phases of disuse or abandonment which could have brought up earlier material into the later archaeological record. It also hints at a lack of importation of material onto the site from the surrounding area during this build up and accumulation which minimises the chances of contamination with residual material. In such conditions it could be expected that a good archaeological sequence, one of higher than usual quality may result, especially where it is combined with domestic occupation as seems to be the case in this part of Bromsgrove.

The type of site has provided an excellent training opportunity for volunteers on a community excavation, although progress down to earlier deposits was necessarily curtailed by the presence of structural remains at a substantial depth making safety considerations paramount. The restricted working space of a deeper excavation also meant that the number of volunteers involved was more restricted.

Outside of purely archaeological considerations, the project achieved considerable engagement with local people on the history of Bromsgrove and heritage more widely. Volunteer and public feedback, both formally and informally, was universally positive and measured in numerical terms, the project had a substantial public impact. Over 400 school children visited the site to undertake educational activities; c 450 people visited the exhibition on Bromsgrove High Street; a minimum of c 500 members of the public visited the site itself for tours, and to speak to the archaeologists; and 38 volunteers helped full-time on site (with many more having to be put on a reserve list) contributing c 418 volunteer hours. Additionally, finds processing was also completed by volunteers during the excavation and following completion of fieldwork. The digital social media dimension of community engagement was also significant: over 100 people followed the Twitter feed during the project and the online blog received over 1300 visits.

6 Significance

6.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The single trench excavated as part of this project demonstrated that substantial structural remains and associated deposits of post-medieval date are present on this site. A good correlation between the archaeology and historic mapping/documentary evidence was achieved. The survival and preservation of structural remains despite 20th century demolition and a large build up of modern made -ground suggests that more of this post-medieval urban environment will be present across the wider area of the site.

6.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The post-medieval structural remains identified during this project are of limited, localised significance, but do have considerable potential to contribute to an understanding of aspects of the post-medieval development of this area and by extension, of Bromsgrove itself. The survival of these remains may also indicate that earlier deposits of a more significant nature could have survived, and potentially in a good state of preservation.

Additionally, the archaeology has demonstrated an interest beyond the traditional, physical significance of the remains, as represented by the public appreciation of the heritage of Bromsgrove fostered by the project. This interest may endow the archaeology at this central location (adjacent the High Street) with a higher level of importance than would normally be attached to such relatively modern remains.

6.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

Archaeological remains were revealed across the trench and were found at least 1m below a build up of later 20th century made-ground. The full extent of the remains is not known, but features continued beyond the limits of excavation at the same level. The survival and preservation of structures and finds was very good.

7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication:

In mid July 2013, the Dig Bromsgrove community archaeology project was undertaken on the site of the former Market Hall at the Hanover Street/St John Street car park in Bromsgrove, located between St John's Church and the Spadesbourne Brook, just to the south-west of the main high street of the town (NGR SO 9579706). A single trench accommodated up to twelve volunteers per day working on the excavation, which was co-ordinated by archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology.

The archaeology revealed was all of post-medieval or later date and comprised the foundation remains and back-yards of former tenements that had previously existed along the frontage of St John Street until their demolition and clearance in the 1950s. Comparison with historic mapping and photographs of the site from before this date suggests that the archaeological remains were the back walls and outside space relating to houses 5 and 6, St John Street. This structural evidence was represented as house foundations, the remains of an alleyway, a small outbuilding, a cellar and a cobbled yard and demonstrated evidence of re-use of building materials from earlier substantial structures. Only a small area was investigated but it is possible to correlate the findings with known mapping of the area and to suggest that similar structural remains continue beyond the excavation area.

The project was designed as a training and outreach exercise connecting local people with the heritage of Bromsgrove, and used both traditional formats and digital social media for this purpose. Volunteer and public feedback, both formally and informally, was universally positive and the project may be considered to have had a substantial public impact.

8 Personnel

The following personnel are all WAAS staff unless otherwise stated.

The project was undertaken by Richard Bradley, with fieldwork assistance provided by, at various times, Ruth Humphreys, Rob Hedge, Tim Cornah and Dennis Williams. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst.

Rob Hedge and Justin Hughes, with help from Laura Griffin, Emma Hancox and Adam Mindykowski, organised and staffed the exhibition space and Justin Hughes and Deborah Overton led the school groups and liaised with the community in promoting the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Emma Hancox and Adam Mindykowski led the historic town walks, Derek Hurst and Justin Hughes undertook media interviews, and Rob Hedge (with occasional help from Richard Bradley) organised and maintained the blog and social media sites.

Paul Harding (Discover History) staged the site re-enactment and gave site tours across two days of the project, and Museum on the Move attended for one day. Paul Hudson collected and collated feed-back from the volunteers and the public.

The report was written by Richard Bradley (with contributions from Robert Hedge), Dennis Williams provided the finds analysis, and the illustrations were completed by Carolyn Hunt.

9 Acknowledgements

Thanks are offered to: to David Thomas (THI officer), Jack Carradine, Adam Harvey, and Martin Ashcroft at Bromsgrove District Council for their energetic assistance in facilitating the project; to Michael Fellows of Rangehurst Ltd who provided the exhibition space; to Mr Shamal who provided the water supply for finds processing; and, above all, to all the volunteers who gave up their time to contribute to the project and so make for such a successful venture. Bromsgrove District Council kindly allowed the project to take place on the former market hall site and generally mustered valuable support through the THI steering committee. Thanks also go to Bob Richardson, who

kindly made available photographs from the Brotherton Collection, and to Pat Tansell and Jenny Townshend who provided the useful results of their historical research specific to the site.

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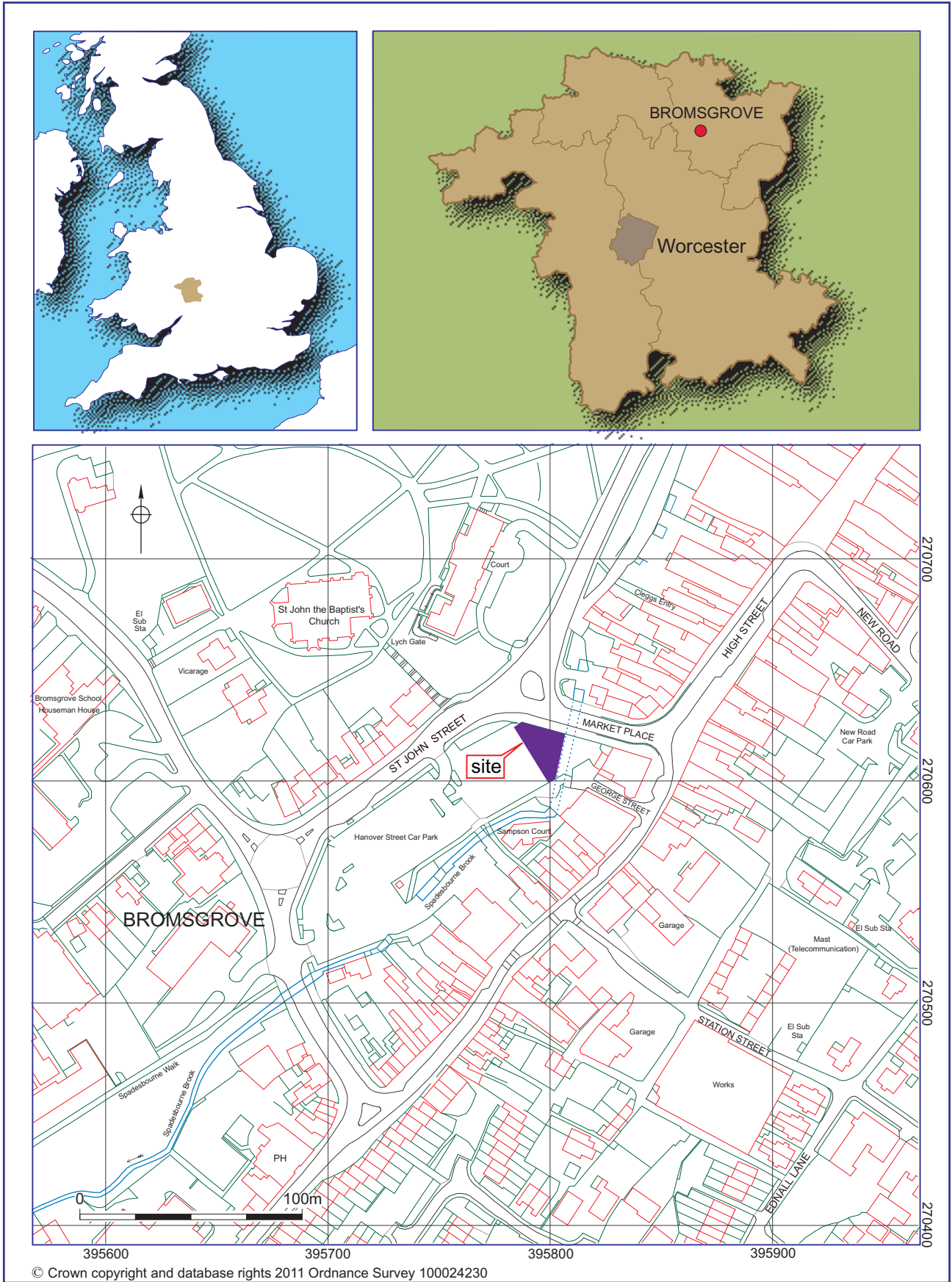
WCC 2013 Requirements for a programme of archaeological (excavation) at the site of the former Market Hall area, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Information and Advisory Section, Archive & Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 15 May 2013

Abbreviations

WAAS Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

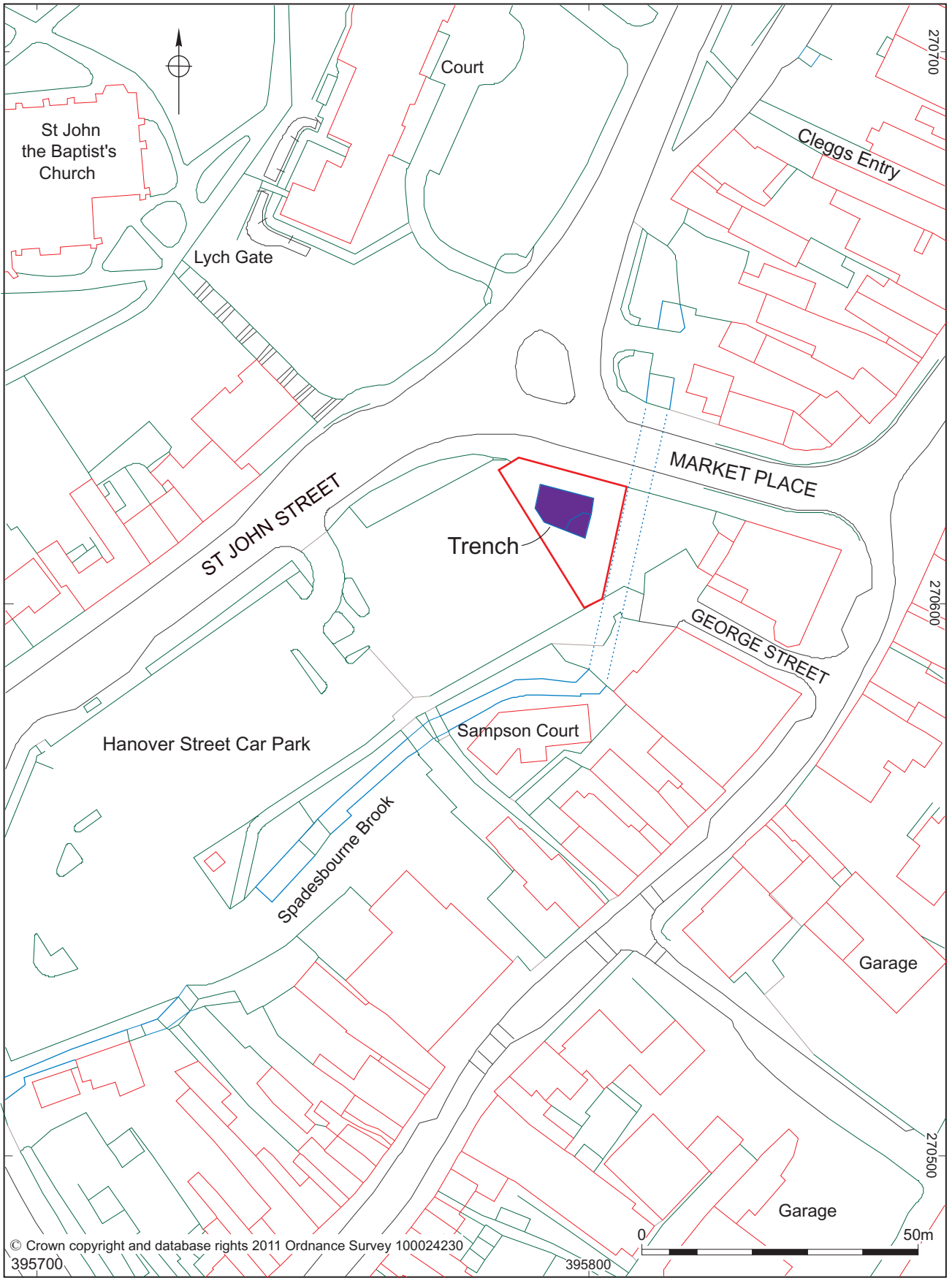
WRO Worcestershire Archives (formerly Worcestershire Record Office)

Figures



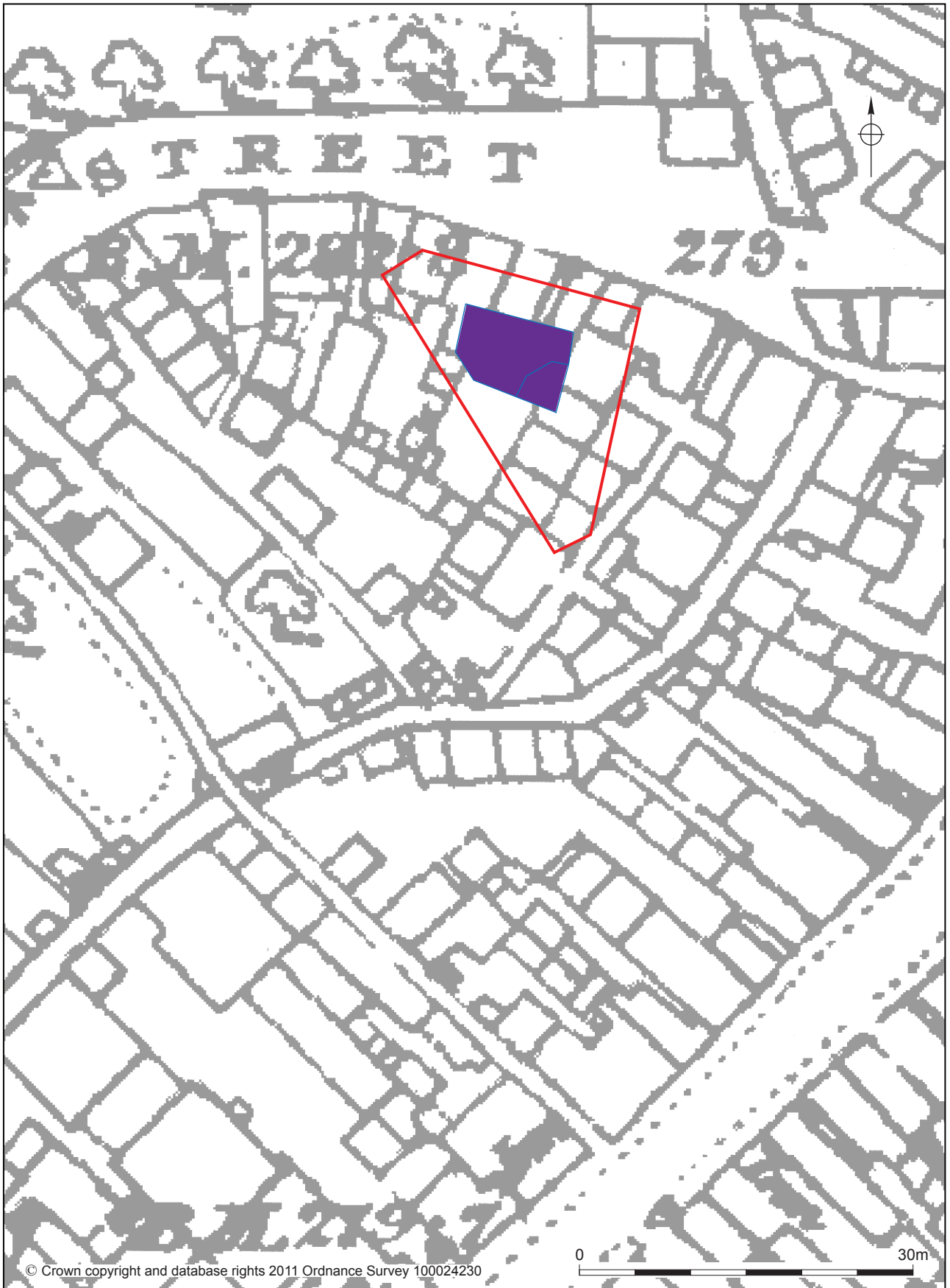
Location of the site

Figure 1



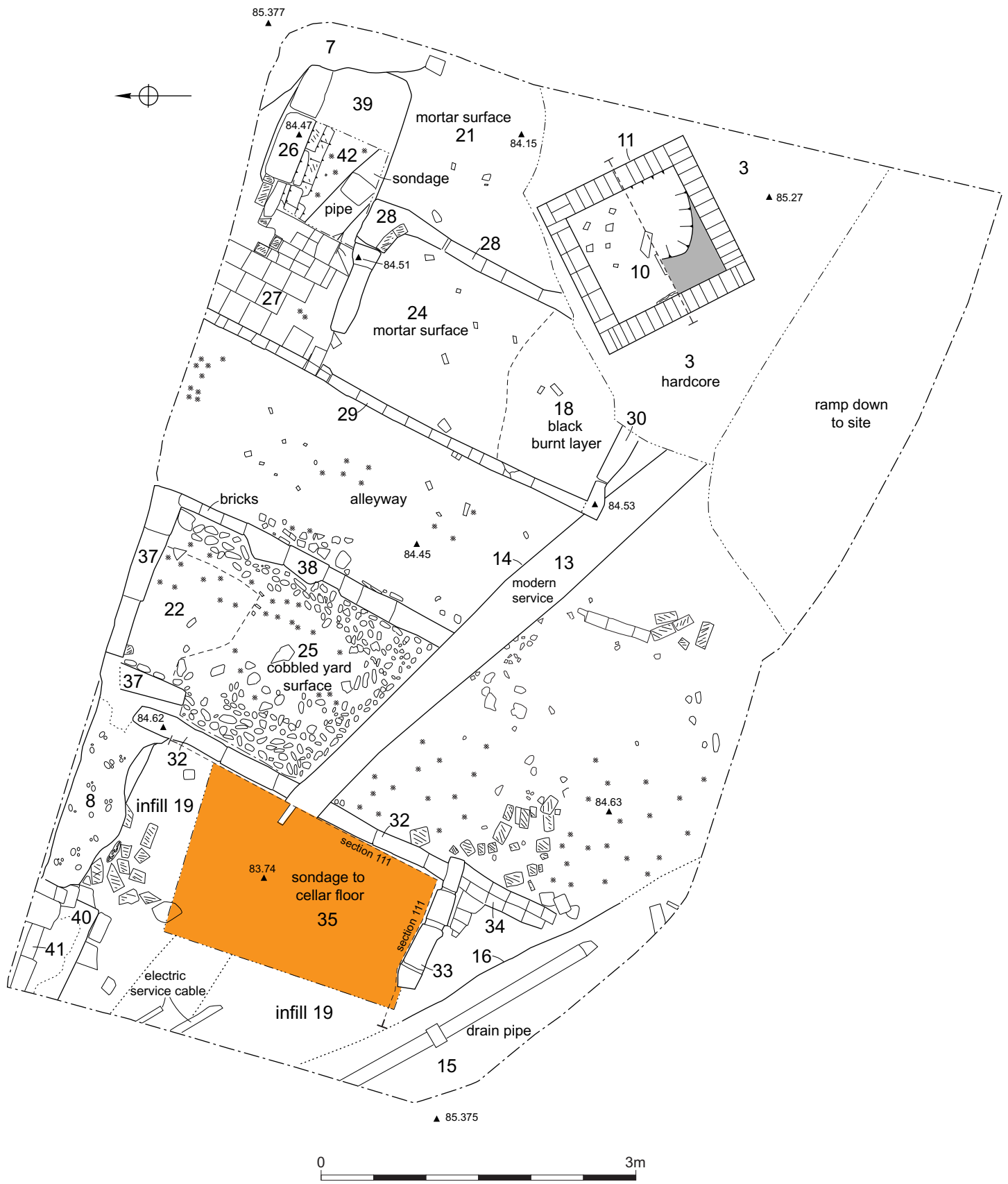
Trench location plan

Figure 2



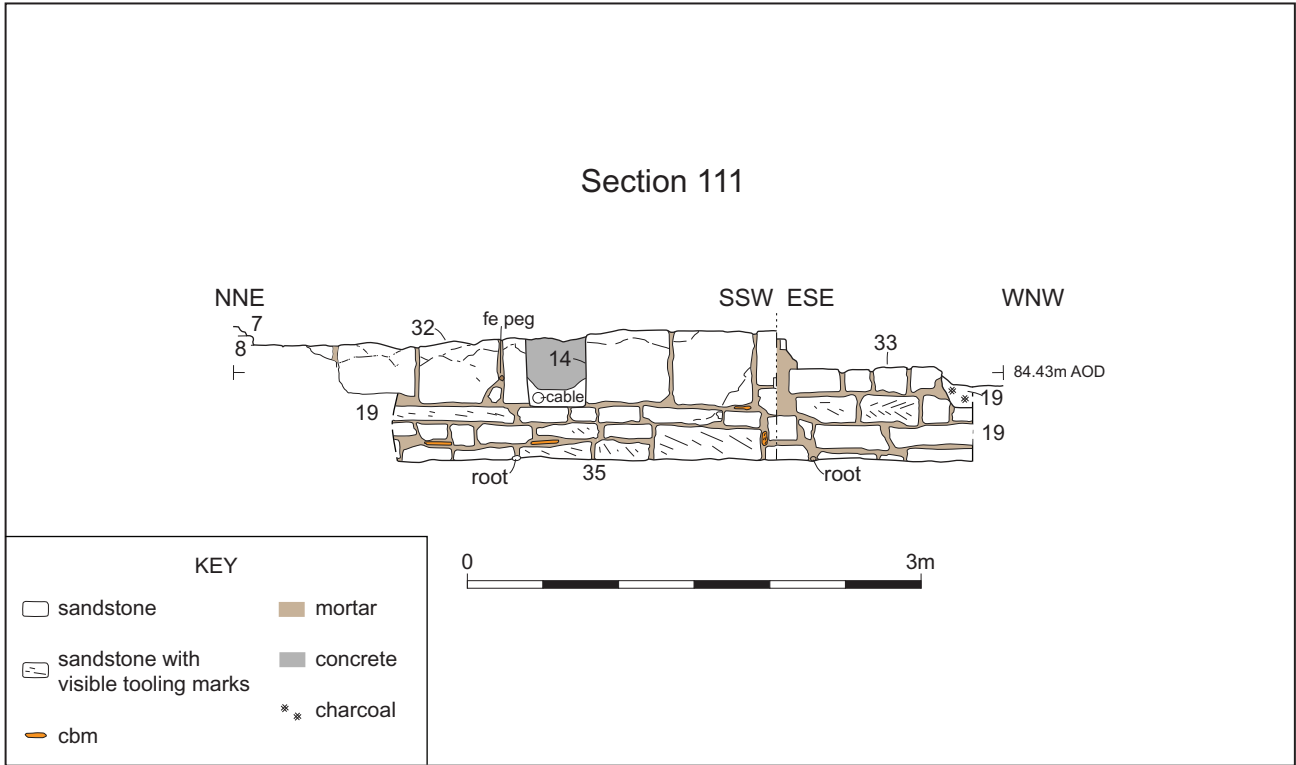
Location of Trench in relation to 1st Edition OS

Figure 3



Multi-context site plan

Figure 4



Internal face of cellar

Figure 5

Plates



Plate 1: The car park before excavation, facing west



Plate 2: The trench after initial cleaning, facing east



Plate 3: Small outbuilding at the back of house number 5, facing south



Plate 4: Quarry tile floor (27) at the back of house number 5



Plate 5: Sandstone foundation wall (26), forming the footings for house number 5; high quality chamfered stone visible in lowest course



Plate 6: Exposed area of cobbled yard surface (25) facing north



Plate 7: Sandstone foundations and floor of the cellar at the back of house number 6

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM 49636)

The archive consists of:

42	Context records AS1
9	Field progress reports AS2
3	Photographic records AS3
207	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
13	Scale drawings
1	Context number catalogues AS5
1	Recorded finds records AS13
2	Levels records AS19
9	Boxes of finds
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Museums Worcestershire
Hartlebury Castle
Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

Summary of data for Worcestershire HER

WSM 49636 (event HER number)

P3758

Artefacts

No part of the finds assemblage was considered a key group for the County, though for north Worcestershire the 17th century pottery is a notable group, and for WWII there is a useful collection of individual items.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	472	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	2884	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	3440	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	830	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	9	358	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	2	42	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	3364	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	180	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	208	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	1064	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	brick	1	378	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	brick/tile	1	30	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	6	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	12	24	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	8	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	3	12	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	4	1690	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	3	8	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	8	1640	1680
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	100	126	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	8	1640	1680
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	2	4	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	1	10	1690	1710
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	12	40	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	32	70	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	50	116	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	20	38	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	6	14	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	4	10	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	3	20	1640	1680
post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	6	8	1600	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	marble	1	4	1800	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	7	24	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	16	1700	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	11	166	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	20	128	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	106	1600	1800

post-medieval	ceramic	pot	4	10	1780	1830
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	14	366	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	120	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	142	142	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	6	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1780	1830
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	62	634	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	39	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	4	40	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	10	38	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	9	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	10	1760	1790
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	4	22	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	10	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	30	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	10	1720	1770
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	4	1700	1900
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	16	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	2	18	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	27	558	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	30	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	12	52	1760	1790
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	10	1700	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	42	1600	1800
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	3	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	3	18	1600	1700
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	1	10	1760	1790
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile	1	102	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	26	3232	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	6	1048	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	9	514	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	19	1994	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	3	528	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	128	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	2	218	1600	1850
post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	22	1718	1600	1850
post-medieval	glass	vessel	1	50	1700	1750
post-medieval	glass	vessel	4	66	1700	1850
post-medieval	glass	vessel	2	168	1700	1800
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	2	40	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	1	76	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	2	76	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	floor tile	1	580	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	1850	1950

Dig Bromsgrove Community Archaeology Excavation 2013, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	8	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	1	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	30	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	44	450	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	16	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	2	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	4	6	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	1	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	4	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	2	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	6	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	4	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	17	50	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	26	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	12	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	89	279	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	134	382	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	2	38	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	3	9	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	38	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	3	16	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	8	94	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	64	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	pot	1	1	1800	1950
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	roof tile	1	92	1850	1950
post-	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	9	400	1850	1950

medieval/modern						
post-medieval/modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	6	122	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	glass	bead	2	2	1850	1850
post-medieval/modern	glass	vessel	74	672	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	glass	vessel	2	122	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	glass	vessel	5	434	1840	1870
post-medieval/modern	glass	vessel	2	32	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		20	1700	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	38	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	632	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		20	1800	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		10	232	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	4	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	190	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	182	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		2	86	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		5	28	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	6	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	130	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	1	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	1	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	40	1600	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	28	1600	1950
post-medieval/modern	metal		1	4	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	organic		1	1	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	organic	shoe	2	48	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	organic	shoe	1	32	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	organic	shoe	2	52	1850	1950
post-medieval/modern	shell	button	1	1	1850	1950

Dig Bromsgrove Community Archaeology Excavation 2013, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

modern	ceramic	bead	1	1	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	drain pipe	3	124	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	drain pipe	3	392	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	drain pipe	1	148	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	drain pipe	2	76	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical connector	1	10	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical connector	2	42	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical insulator	1	28	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical insulator	1	8	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical insulator	1	52	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	electrical insulator	2	38	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	58	310	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	1	16	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	3	16	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	2	4	1936	1947
modern	ceramic	pot	3	88	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	14	102	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	pot	3	24	1942	1947
modern	ceramic	pot	11	436	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	13	1292	1900	1950
modern	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	6	1512	1900	1950
modern	glass	marble	1	6	1950	2000
modern	glass	vessel	3	12	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	47	510	1800	1950
modern	glass	vessel	2	208	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	34	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	38	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	34	326	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	124	1939	1945
modern	glass	vessel	1	102	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	130	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	46	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	34	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	3	174	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	74	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	298	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	170	1920	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	248	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	76	534	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	97	2204	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	46	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	18	1900	1950
modern	glass	vessel	1	286	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	18	48	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	22	74	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	57	110	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	66	574	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	84	338	1900	1950

modern	glass	window	4	84	1900	1950
modern	glass	window	3	6	1900	1950
modern	metal		1	6	1989	1989
modern	metal		1	60	1950	2000
modern	metal		1	1274	1900	1950
modern	metal	bicycle saddle	1	928	1930	1950
modern	mineral		6	356	0	0
modern	organic/mineral		12	24	1600	1900
modern	plastic		5	16	1950	2000
modern	plastic		1	2	1950	2000
modern	plastic		5	18	1950	2000
modern	plastic		1	1	1994	1995
modern	plastic		1	2	1939	1945
modern	plastic	button	1	1	1950	2000
modern	plastic	pen	1	8	1950	2000
modern	rubber	stopper	1	20	1900	1950
modern	rubber	stopper	1	18	1900	1950
undated	bone		7	26	0	0
undated	bone		19	94	0	0
undated	bone		1	42	0	0
undated	bone		1	6	0	0
undated	bone		9	54	0	0
undated	bone		5	60	0	0
undated	bone		1	12	0	0
undated	bone		2	24	0	0
undated	bone		7	76	0	0
undated	bone		16	228	0	0
undated	bone		1	36	0	0
undated	bone		1	20	0	0
undated	shell		1	1	0	0
undated	shell		1	1	0	0
undated	shell		9	20	0	0
undated	shell		1	14	0	0